

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9, 19, 22-23, 25 and 27 are cancelled.

Support for each amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the originally filed specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 10-16, 20-21, 23-24 and 26 as being unpatentable in view of EP 0825227 ('227) is respectfully traversed. '227 describes, at page 3, lines 30-34, "the thermoplastic elastomer component (A) and the SPBD component (B) [syndiotactic 1,2-polybutadiene resin component] are preferably present respectively in contents of 40 to 95 parts and 60 to 5 parts, per 100 parts by weight of the total elastic composition."

Further, '227, at page 2, under Summary of the Invention, describes that "The above-mentioned object can be attained by the thermoplastic elastomer composition of the present invention which comprises (A) a thermoplastic elastomer containing polymerized isoprene chain segments and (B) a syndiotactic 1,2-polybutadiene resin having a melting temperature of 100°C or more."

Thus, '227 requires the presence of both a thermoplastic elastomer containing polymerized isoprene chain segments and a syndiotactic 1,2-polybutadiene resin having a melting temperature of 100°C or more.

In contrast, the present claims contain a 1,2-polybutadiene having a crystallinity of 5% or more, but do not contain a thermoplastic elastomer containing polymerized isoprene chains.

Accordingly, '227 does not describe or suggest every feature of the present claims, and, in fact, teaches away from the "100 parts by weight of 1,2-polybutadiene" feature of the present claims.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 17-28 and 20 as being unpatentable in view of ‘227 in combination with Doheny, Jr. is respectfully traversed. As described above, ‘227 does not describe or suggest all of the features of present Claims 10 and 26, and the claims depending therefrom. The disclosure of Doheny, Jr. does not remedy the deficiencies of ‘227. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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